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ComReg says emerging alternative technologies can deliver high speed services

The Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) today issued four briefing notes on developments in Information and Communication Technologies as part of its Forward-looking Programme.

The briefing notes deal with such topics as *Peer to Peer Networking*, *Ad hoc and Mesh Networking Technology*, *Wireless Metropolitan Area Networks* and *Wireless Link Technology*, which are all focused on providing alternative access to high speed services.

Peer to peer networking allows end users to access directly and share resources such as content (e.g. file sharing) and computing power (e.g. grid computing) on other end users' computers over telecommunications networks.

Ad hoc networking technology can enable devices (e.g. a suitably equipped mobile phone or portable computer) to form networks by communicating directly with one another, without the need for existing telecommunications infrastructure such as masts, base stations and cables.

Similarly mesh networking technology utilises individual users' devices to help form the network infrastructure, using them to pass on traffic from other users.

Wireless metropolitan area networks are wireless access networks typically used to supply broadband services to end users within an urban area.

New developments are emerging in the area of wireless link technology operating at higher frequencies than traditional microwave links (i.e. ~ 60GHz and above). These could help provide easily installed, low cost high speed connections between points on a network, typically up to a few kilometres apart.

The Chairperson of the Commission for Communications Regulation, Eoin Doyle said: “one of the key drivers for these alternative solutions is the increasing call for widespread broadband access. The addition of alternative networking technologies alongside existing networks can only help to increase the choice of communications services available to end users in Ireland. In outlining some of these technologies we hope to help inform and stimulate end users and network operators to consider some of the many new possibilities that are emerging.”

The full document 03/110 can be viewed on www.comreg.ie

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